

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 9, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment corrects an informality in claim 1. It also adds new claims 12-20 to further protect the invention. Claim 12 is an independent claim with an “image inputting step” somewhat similar to that of claim 1, but referring only to the direction of the waves (instead of the direction and/or the wavelength of the waves, as in claim 1). Claims 13-15 are dependent claims corresponding generally to claims 4, 5, and 7, but depending from claim 12. Claim 16 is also a dependent claim, and adds wavelengths to the wave directions of claim 12. Claim 17 is an independent claim corresponding generally to new claim 12, but with an “image inputting step” that refers to wavelengths. Claims 18, 19, and 20 correspond generally to original claims 4, 5, and 7.

The Office Action comments that paragraph [0077] (of the published version of this application) refers to preparing plural dot patterns with the wave direction and the wavelength changed. The Office Action rejects the claims for lack of enablement on the ground that claim 1 recites a plurality of dot patterns “with a direction of wave and/or wavelength changed...”. The rejection is respectfully traversed, for the reasons discussed below. That is, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is enabling for either “and” or “or” or both, in accordance with claim 1.

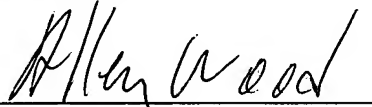
First, it is respectfully submitted that an ordinarily skilled person would not read paragraph [0077] as meaning that both the wavelength and the wave direction must be unique for every symbol. Figures 3A and 3B of the application’s drawings, for example, show symbols with the same wavelength but different wave directions. Furthermore, the application describes a signal detection filtering step S310 (see Figure 12) which can be conducted with the aid of a so-called Gabor filter. This filter takes both the wave direction and wavelength (or frequency) into account (see paragraph [0135]), but an ordinarily skilled person would have no reason to think that both of these parameters must be varied in order for the embedded information to be extracted. Varying one of the parameters (that is, wave direction or wavelength) is sufficient, although it would be possible to vary both parameters.

Nor would an ordinarily skilled person have any difficulty in designing signal units in which the waves vary in wave direction or in wavelength. Figure 3A, for example, shows what is meant by wavelength and by the direction of the waves. Figure 3B shows the same wavelength but a different wave direction than Figure 3A. An ordinarily skilled person would understand, without needing to be explicitly told, that the wavelength could be changed in Figure 3B by moving one of the lines of dots closer or further apart from the other line of dots.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that an ordinarily skilled person who had read the present application would not need to conduct undue experimentation in order to practice the invention defined by claim 1. The rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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